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Oriental Manuscripts Library.

* 35 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state with reference to question No. 122 answered on 21st April 1947—

(*a*) what the number of manuscripts in different classical and South Indian languages in the Oriental Manuscripts Library is ;

(*b*) whether most of the correspondence dealt with relates mostly to Sanskrit manuscripts ;

(*c*) (i) what the income of the library is, and

(ii) on account of what language manuscripts it is being made ;

(*d*) what steps are being taken to preserve the valuable manuscripts ;

(*e*) whether there is a peripatetic party going in search of collection and transcription of manuscripts ;

(*f*) whether the library is provided with a mending and binding section and photostat and micro-film apparatus for taking copies of the manuscripts ; and

(*g*) whether there is a publication section attached to the library ?

The Hon. Sri T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

" (*a*) The number of manuscripts in different classical and South Indian languages as on 25th May 1947 is as follows :—

Sanskrit	32,635
Tamil	6,925
Telugu	4,781
Kannada	2,085
Malayalam	388
Persian	893
Arabic	275
Urudu	128
Mahrathi	923
Pali, Singalese and Burmese ..	123

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) (i) Nil.

(ii) Does not arise.

" (*d*) Manuscripts are regularly dusted by persons specially employed for the purpose, and sprayed with a preservative chemical solution prepared according to the prescription furnished by the Research Laboratory British Museum, London. The Manuscripts are mended at the Madras

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Record Office and are also bound at the Government Press, Madras. The contents of the manuscripts are preserved by recopying them on durable paper.

"(e) No.

"(f) No.

"(g) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether a peripatetic party is employed on manuscript collection?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— "Not now, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I request the Government to consider the desirability of reviving the peripatetic party for the purpose of collection of manuscripts?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— "I will go into the matter."

Publications printed in Government Press and by independent printers.

* 36 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state to what extent Government publications, including printed propaganda, issued in various forms are printed in the Government Press and by independent printers respectively; and in the latter case, whether orders are decided by competitive estimates or prepared on a cost plus basis from selected printers?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— "All Government publications including printed propaganda issued in various forms are invariably printed in the Government Press with the following exceptions :—

Propaganda posters of big size in Indian languages relating to the Public Health and Agriculture departments. They are entrusted to private presses as Poster types for them are not available in the Government Press. The entrustment of this work to private presses is only by the invitation of competitive tenders. The Board of Revenue has also been permitted to entrust the printing of food propaganda notices to private presses."

Contracts given by Forest Department.

* 37 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to question No. 102 answered on the 11th March 1947, will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) if the Conservator of Forests in his discretion was competent to enter into contracts irrespective of the monetary limit, what was the need for Government to intervene and grant the lease;